

A REPORT ON THE UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On September 24 we had the first meeting of your newly-elected Southwestern Union Conference Executive Committee. The executive committee is composed of 44 members, 20 of whom are new. It is a very professional committee, and I look forward to working with them.

It is my plan to report to you on the work of the committee on a regular basis. This report gives you a

brief picture of our first meeting.

We always begin with a devotional and a season of prayer. Walter Wright, union vice president, presented devotional thoughts based on Titus 1:1, emphasizing the servant attitude that should characterize every executive committee member. The committee was elected to serve God and the best interests of the Southwestern Union, not to serve personal interests. In return, God has promised wisdom and His presence in the work of the committee.

Much of the first meeting was spent in orientation. Members were given printed guidelines which outline the responsibilities of the executive committee members. First of all, they are to be loyal to God and to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as well as faithful stewards of their time, talents and financial means in support of the church. They are also expected to faithfully attend the four annual meetings of the committee and to handle professionally and ethically the information that is shared with them. They were asked to sign conflict of interest statements indicating that they have no business dealings which might affect their voting or input on the committee.

A part of each executive committee meeting is devoted to reports. Ralph Orduno, president of the Texico Conference, had just accepted a call to the North Pacific Union, so I asked him to report on the work in that conference. Tithe and baptisms continue to increase in Texico, no doubt in part because of their strong evangelism program. Since school had just begun, I asked our two education representatives on the committee, Doug Walker, union education director, and Marvin Anderson, Southwestern Adventist University president, to update the committee on school enrollment. Doug reported that the elementary school enrollment figures in the union are about the same as last year, but academy enrollment has increased. Dr. Anderson announced the eighth straight record-breaking enrollment at Southwestern Adventist University-1,030 students for the fall

One of the major issues discussed at the meeting was the litigation on the 99 acres formerly owned by the union located directly across I-35W from the union office. As many of you know, in 1995 the city of Burleson condemned the property and annexed it to build a municipal golf course. We were awarded a fraction of our asking price. Since that time, we have

been involved in litigation challenging the amount we were awarded and also the right of the city to condemn the property for a golf course. The judge has recently ordered us into mediation to try to avoid a trial. I was authorized by the committee to represent the union, along with our attorneys, at the mediation process. The committee also set guidelines on the amount we could settle for in mediation.



Max A Trevi

The committee voted to accept the Global Mission 2000 goals proposed by the local conference administrators. These are the goals to be achieved by the year 2000. We are well on our way to achieving many of these goals.

Global Mission 2000 Objectives

	Members	Baptisms	Attendan		Development Funds
Arkla	8,400	1,500	5,500	6,000,000	1,300,000
Okla	5,750	900	3,750	3,575,000	300,000
SWR	21,000	4,000	10,500	7,400,000	384,750
Texas	30,000	10,000	24,000	23,500,000	500,000
Texico	7,500	1,800	4,500	4,200,000	250,000
Union	72,650	18,200	48,250	44,675,000	2,734,750

Other actions voted by the Executive Committee:

 The following persons were ask to fill vacancies on the union Board of Education:
 Ron Scott, elementary/junior academy principal

Connie Perryman, lay person Benjamin Francois, lay person

• Credentials and licenses were voted for the staff at Southwestern Adventist University.

The following persons were asked to fill staff

vacancies:

Charles O'Dell, union retiree coordinator Harvey Byram, ASI director Eddie Canales, Hispanic coordinator Dr. Harold Johnson, health/temperance director Joe Watts, disaster response coordinator

• The following appropriations were voted: \$75,000 to Burton Adventist Academy in the Texas Conference for the construction of a new

\$5,000 to Montemorelos University to help build a chapel for the theology department

Regarding appropriations, our policy at the union office is not to hoard excess funds but to pass them on to lower organizations to assist in their projects. We take pleasure in being able to help these two institutions, and we will continue to pass along funds as they become available to help meet needs in other areas.

Please pray for the executive committee and the administrators of the Southwestern Union Conference as we meet the challenges of finishing the Lord's work here in the Southwest.



By Jean Thomas, Editor

Have you ever visited with someone who has been perplexed, lost in the confusing voices of this world, but who at last has found the answers to those riddles in the person of Jesus Christ? It's inspiring. It's thrilling. It's amazing to see what a revelation of God's love does to such an individual. And they are so eager to share their joy with others.

A visible transformation takes place. The struggles for recognition, position, and wealth fade into insignificance as these individuals begin their new life under a new Master. Things which seemed so important lose their attraction as they seek to

honor their Savior.

Released from the burdens of sin, with their inhibitions and fears gone, life has new meaning, and their countenances radiate this joy. Talk to Will McCall, pastor of the New Orleans First Church. He can tell you of that joy. "I won't forget the radiance on Teresa Perenack's face as she came up out of the water after her baptism," he said when describing the events of the past few weeks during the Ken Cox crusade. "She'd been wanting to be baptized for some time, but something had prevented her until now."

In our feature this month please read about the struggles and relief Sonya Francis Miller describes in her conversion story, and take note of Steve Urich's comments about what God's sacrifice means to Him now that he has a son of his own and can better relate to the agony God must have endured when he sent His son to die to save humankind.

Now during NET '96, take time to acquaint yourself with the new

people who come to the meetings. Visit with them. Encourage them, Make friends with them. Help answer some of their questions, and you will get caught up in the thrill of seeing people find the true meaning to life.

At this Thanksgiving season, when we have so much to be grateful for, why not take time for reflection on God's good-

ness. Let's not take Him for granted. God is real. He loves to hear thanks from those He has redeemed from

earth's heavy burdens.

"The church is very precious in God's sight. He values it, not for its external advantages, but for the sincere piety which distinguishes it from the world. He estimates it according to the growth of the members in the knowledge of Christ,

"The Lord desires us to make mention of His goodness and tell of His power. He is honored by the expression of praise and thanksgiving.

Christ's Object Lessons, page 298

according to their progress in spiritual experience...

"A congregation may be the poorest in the land...but if the members possess the principles of the character of Christ, they will have His joy in their souls. Angels will unite with them in their worship. The praise and thanksgiving from grateful hearts will ascend to God as a sweet oblation." Christ's Object Lessons, page 298

What is it that gives us the peace and happiness we all long for? Why do some have it and others don't? What makes some of us grateful for every blessing, while others find nothing to rejoice over? The answer is simple, and yet it's hard.

We have to make a choice. Elijah on Mount Carmel challenged those

who had gathered for the contest between God and Baal with these words, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." 1 Kings 18:21

Not being willing to make that choice is what makes us miserable. Pretending to belong to Christ and yet hanging onto practices that are not pleasing to Him will continue to make us unhappy. Serving two masters never works; we're always torn between the two.

"When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteous-

"Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine...It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll...Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness." Christ's Object Lessons, pages 312, 313

Our hearts will overflow with thanksgiving and praise once we make the choice to follow Christ. That's when we'll want to tell others about Him and what He has done for us personally. Praise to God, for His

love and care make the most powerful testimony a Christian can make. This Thanksgiving time may each of us find it in our hearts to praise and thank our Heavenly King for His blessings.



Jean Thomas

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures

forever. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. The Lord is my strength and song. He has become my salvation. Psalm 118:1, 6, 14

Heavenly Father, How can I thank You enough for releasing me from fear?

After all the Sundays of worship, Tuesday night prayer meetings and many retreats which provided a time of reflection, prayer and devotion in a secluded part of the country, I still lived in fear of the future and of dying.

Reflecting back on these and many other times of mundane, self-centered practices, now that the scales have been removed from my eyes by Jesus Christ himself, I thank Him for revealing His love to me. I realize now how many times I experienced God's love and mercy, yet I didn't know it at the time.

After 12 years of continuous religious schooling, I couldn't fathom burning in hell forever and never getting out. I never learned about how the world would end. My peers and I thought that the president would press the button at the White House and via nuclear explosion, destroy the world. Or that the church would receive a message that the end was here, giving no time to prepare, and that if we weren't ready we'd go straight to hell. The thought of dying was horrifying.

I remember another experience that frightened me. After years and years of attending church regularly, I missed one Sunday. The following day I experienced an unusual problem at work, and I mentioned to my principal, who belonged to a different

church, I felt that missing church was the problem. She chuckled and insisted that not attending church had nothing to do with it and not to worry anymore.

One day in May, 1990, upon the recommendation of my husband, I attended some meetings by an Evangelist Lane entitled, "Last Days Revival." I hardly ever attended religious meetings other than those held by my church, but as I sat there I listened. At one point I felt proud to belong to my church. Days passed. I listened...I disagreed! What was the evangelist saying?

He said my deceased mother was not in heaven! My heart skipped a beat! Finally he completed his study on what really happens when you die. I sat relieved, yet appalled, until I accepted his challenge to research for myself. I found many, many truths I had not known before. Still, with so many years of praying and observing the traditions of my church I found it difficult to change my way of thinking. To disregard all those years of nurtured beliefs in contrast to a few weeks of what was being said and what I was finding out from the Bible was a difficult transition.

During the pastor's many appeals to surrender to Christ, a voice in my

consciousness would
tell me that I
was a faithful
church
attender, that
I already
kept God's
commandments and
had nothing
to worry
about—that
the pastor
was appeal-



Sonya Francis Miller

ing to those visitors who didn't go to church and didn't know God—not

I was sure I knew God! The good and the bad about Him! Sometimes I believed He was real, sometimes I believed that He wasn't. Today I realize the voice was that of Satan as described in Isaiah 14: 13, 14 trying to make me feel good about myself.

While listening to the appeal on

one hand and the voice on the other hand, I began to wonder—what would it hurt to leave one church and join another? I just knew that Pastor Lane made reasonable sense and that I had verified these new truths myself.

Then, before I realized what I was doing, I found myself standing at the front of the church responding to the pastor's appeal. After my baptism I continued to study and attend Sabbath school and church. I enrolled in a Revelation seminar, attended weekly prayer meetings, and rose to every occasion to grow spiritually. I always took notes.

Yet, only days after my baptism, my supervisor at work, who knew nothing of my change in religion, began asking questions about certain aspects of church teachings from my previous church, and I felt rather defensive. On this particular occasion it was about God's ten commandments. After the conversation I began to wonder whether my baptism had been a mistake.

While driving home after school, I said to God, "Please, God, I don't want to spend more years in error thinking that I'm pleasing you when I'm not. Please help me get it right this time!"

That evening I forged ahead, dubiously confused, with my Bible, notebook and concordance. After about five hours of study, I said aloud to myself (everyone else was asleep), "Yes! Yes! Thank you, Jesus! Yes! Yes! I am in the right church!"

From then on I had an insatiable desire to know more and more and more. For about six months I studied daily under the unction of the Holy Spirit. Then I ordered Spirit of Prophecy books from the Adventist Book Center including the entire Conflict of the Ages series. When I read the chapter in *Great Controversy* entitled, "Era of Spiritual Darkness," it reflected my beliefs and thoughts and experiences, and I became even more excited.

Eventually I had to ask God to please help me get a break from this insatiability. I was tired! So Jesus did just that. For a few days each month I didn't have that burning desire to dig into the Word. However, often I

would study until two or three in the morning and then have to get up in a few hours to prepare for work. I never felt tired. This miracle was repeated time and time again, all for

After many months of personal study I firmly, sincerely know that God is real. He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. From that turning point in my life until now, I'm still excited! I am still happy! I am looking forward to the second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There is a joy and peace in my heart that no one can touch! I'm not afraid of dying! I fear no one, for Jesus has told us to fear only him who can destroy both body and soul.

I am free! Jesus has told us that the truth will make us free. The truth has made me free! As part of this last generation, I am prepared, because I KNOW He will never

leave or forsake me!

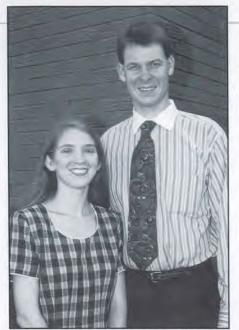
Sonya Francis Miller Baton Rouge

For sending my aunt to help me clear up my confused thoughts, I Thank you, Heavenly Father.

While in high school I noticed that some of my classmates seemed to have what I considered peculiar eating habits. My curiosity got the best of me, so I began asking questions.

From these students I learned some truths in the Bible that I had never understood before, but because some of these teachings exposed errors in my own understanding of scripture, I found it difficult to accept them. However, I did study some with them and even attended their church, the Shreveport First Seventhday Adventist Church.

Shortly after going to this church I discovered, to my amazement, that my grandmother and her sisters were members there, and that I had an aunt as well who was a Seventh-day Adventist, I attended the church off



Rebecca and Robert Morris, baptized on August 24, 1996 by their pastor, Alvin Astrup, are a constant ray of sunshine in the Shreveport First church.

and on for a couple of years, but then began getting strong opposition from some of my immediate family.

Then I left the church, and in my confusion I gave in to the enemy. I became involved in worldly practices that were so destructive to my soul that I wondered at times if I would ever find my way back to God.

After five years of soul-destroying activities, writhing in spiritual agony, I reached an all-time low. But then, as the Holy Spirit plead with me, I began once again to study and pray.

Soon after this I was introduced to a lovely young lady named Rebecca in whom I became very interested. We began dating and spending time together. A year and a half later we were married in the Methodist Church in which I was raised.

We both enrolled in college and began working on degrees in the careers of our choice. At this point things were really looking up. Rebecca and I continued to encourage each other every day, but still something seemed to be missing in our lives.

I began sharing the Adventist beliefs I knew of with Rebecca. On our first Christmas Eve together as a married couple, we attended a party at a relative's home to which Mary

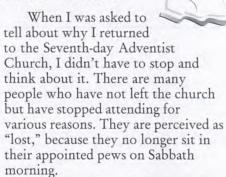
Rathbun, my Adventist aunt, had also been invited. We began to talk about the church.

That was when I realized what was missing in our lives. I turned to my aunt and said, "Aunt Mary, I'm coming back to the church, but I'm not sure about Becky." Then Becky joined in and said, "Where you go I will go." Aunt Mary's face beamed and she said, "Praise God."

From that Sabbath, Rebecca and I have kept the commandments of the one and only true God in heaven. We continue to grow daily as we keep our eyes on Jesus, the One who has had mercy on our souls.

Robert Morris Member of Shreveport First Church

Thank you, my Father, For the women who helped me come "Home."



I feel that many of these members are in a situation similar to mine. Possibly they are deeply hurt by what someone has said or not said, done or not done. It is easy for us to say quite righteously that if they had had a close relationship with the Lord, they wouldn't have been so easily offended.

We are often guilty of thinking these thoughts, even if they are not spoken. We forget that Christ cares deeply for those who are hurting and confused and who have slipped off the narrow path. He has always been interested in people's problems, like the woman at the well, Mary Magdalene when she was thrown at His feet, or Matthew the tax collector, who was despised by all those around him. There were those who condemned Christ for simply speaking with these characters. In most

cases, Christ was as much a counselor to them as He was a Savior.

As I look back at why I quit attending church, I have no difficulty remembering the pain that accompanied my absence of almost five years. Basically there were three reasons

why I walked away.

I was in a marriage that had broken up because my husband committed a horrible crime and was going to prison for the second time. I had asked our pastor for family counseling on several occasions before this, but he did not respond. Later, much later, I found out he was not comfortable with counseling, because he'd had no training in counseling. I feel counseling should be in the curriculum for all pastors, because by virtue of their calling, they will come in contact with church members who have a need for counseling. I am thankful that through the work of the Holy Spirit, I have now made peace with this pastor.

But that was only one of the reasons. My husband had been the choir director and was well respected, but once he "sinned" not one church member ever came to talk with me, nor would they look me in the eye or speak to me when I went to church.Reason number three was my inability to say, "I am hurting and I need your help." I couldn't see beyond my pain to understand that no one spoke to me because they didn't know what to say. This could easily have been prevented if as a church family we had known each other better, put aside our personal fears, and cared for each other's needs

more than our own.

If what I have just said sounds bitter, I want to say that I am not bitter. I am much stronger in my Christian experience because of the above events. But the path back would have been much shorter if I had had stronger bonds within the

church.

What made me decide to come back? Two women in the church had talked with me in places away from the church—one in a store while shopping, and the other at an academy class reunion. They both said

they missed seeing me at church. But what really made the difference was that they both took the time to write me a letter of invitation to return to church.

Other factors were that I'd had time to heal emotionally and I missed attending church, even though I didn't know how to go back. I will be eternally grateful to these two

women for caring enough to sit down and write those letters of invitation.

I have since realized that only I can make the choice to follow God, regardless of other people's words or actions. It is my choice to look to Jesus and not to anyone else when it comes to my relationship with the church, with the church members, and with my Lord. As a child of God I need to reach out to others and share His love, even if it means no more than to listen and say, "I love you."

By claiming membership in God's family, we accept the gospel commission to love one another and to share that love and the gospel with others. This love needs to start at home in our own churches. Let us all seek those who no longer attend church. They may only be waiting for that invitation from someone who cares enough to say or write, "We miss you; please come back.'

Name Withheld



Thank you, Heavenly Father, For answering my prayers!

"I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with

me." Ps. 13:6

What mother doesn't worry about her child? As my son left for the Navy at age 18, I did more than worry. I prayed and prayed.



Richard Lee Howsman the day he was baptized by Pastor David Koot, May 22, 1996.

I began sending him our literature, Bible study guides and Signs of the Times. When I would ask whether he'd received them he would say, "I lost them." I suspected they were being "deep-sixed" which is to say, thrown overboard.

Eight years went by, and then he called asking for Bible studies. With a joyful heart and a prayer, I sent more. Then on May 22, 1996 my son, Richard Lee Howsman, was baptized and joined the Ada, Oklahoma Seventh-day Adventist Church. Praise God for hearing my prayers!

Carolyn Watts

For bringing me new hope, I thank you, Dear Father.

As a new LPN in a new hospital, I kept looking for a familiar or a friendly face. My life was full of new things and the sum of them quite overwhelmed me. In a period of 2 1/ 2 years, I had changed my vocation, lost my husband and two beautiful girls, and the respect of friends and family.

Then God answered my need and my longing. I was assigned a work project with a nurse I'd met casually 15 years before. For a couple of hours once a week we worked together. Her name is Peggy James. She is a respiratory therapist, a very outgoing, kind,

sincere registered nurse. As we became better acquainted, I began to share with her the events of my life and my search to find whatever it was God had in store for me. I began to look forward to those early Tuesday morning work sessions and visits with Peggy.

Slowly Peggy began to share scriptures with me and to ask questions. She gave me a book, Sunday Law, which, because I was attending a Sunday church, I read hesitantly. It was extremely disconcerting to read this book, until one evening I gave in to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Then I sat down and read the whole book through. It seemed the Holy Spirit was saying, "This is it! This is what I had for you, but until now you were not ready for it."

Eventually Peggy and her husband, Bruce, completed a Bible study course with me, and Pastor Koot reviewed the baptismal vows to make sure I understood what I was doing. Some time later I answered an appeal by Bruce James at the conclusion of one of his sermons to give my heart to Christ.

It was a great thrill to me to share the baptismal waters with both my pastor and Brother James, and to join the Ada, Oklahoma Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Carla Williams, LPN

Thank you, Dear God, For sending Your Son to save me.

Interview between the editor, Jean Thomas, and Steve Urich, a member of Laurel Heights church in San Antonio.

Steve, all I know about you is that your pastor told me you were excited to be back and involved with the church program. I gather there was a time you were an Adventist, but then things changed. If you feel comfortable, could you share your story with the readers of the *Record*?

Yes, I'd be glad to. I'm now 42, and I grew up here in San Antonio. I grew up attending the Adventist Church. My father was in the military, so I travelled around the states. We moved here to San Antonio in 1967. I went to Adventist schools, beginning with the third grade. I attended San Antonio Junior Academy and from there I went to Valley Grande Academy. I took a year off from the academy but then went to college. I had three years of college.

You went to Southwestern?

Yes, but while there I was diagnosed with cancer. And it was cancer that started in my right testicle and went up to my lymph nodes, to my lungs and my heart. I was told I'd not make it for more than six weeks. After I'd had two surgeries I was told I had no chance of survival whatsoever.

How old were you then?

I was 20. That was in 1974. And so I went to see five other doctors and finally the doctors said, after looking at the X-rays and reports, that I had no chance and basically gave me a bunch of Percodan and to just go home and take these whenever I needed them, as that's all they could do for me.

After several surgeries, radiation, losing my hair twice and all the side effects of chemotherapies which destroyed some of my hearing, my breathing and my kidney functions, the doctors decided to give me a combination of five chemotherapies that I had already had, and they basically told me either this would

kill me or the cancer would kill me. I said, "No, I am not going through with that." So I quit chemotherapy treatments.

Then what happened? Obviously you didn't die.

During the time I was having chemotherapy I completely cleansed my body by eating just fruits and vegetables, no meats, and leaving off all sugars and salts. Then a school mate of mine at Keene, whose mother was into alternative treatments for cancer, brought me some herbal medicine called lily barium. After taking this serum for 20 days, all the tumors in my body were gone and they have never returned. I believe that by taking the herbal serum and with a lot of prayer, I was cured.

Two years after this, in 1976, I was in a major car accident where I put a Corvette into a tree and broke my neck in two places, damaged my eye, broke my leg, and tore myself up pretty good. I was in the hospital for three months. I came out of that with no paralysis.

So, this is how my life was going, with big and little accidents, and I have come close to death several times.

People have told me that God has a purpose for me, He has a purpose for everyone. But it wasn't until this year that I decided to ask Him what it was.

So what was it that helped you realize that God had a purpose for your life?

Well, as I look at it now, it seems that during my first 20 years I was very rebellious. That was when I had cancer. During the second 20 years I have finally realized that I was going to be here, so I'd better make the best of it.



Steve Urich in the San Antonio church baptistry, with his pastor, Tom Hennlein.

After the cancer and the wreck and broken neck, I lived a pretty reckless life. I didn't have a real value for life, and when you plan your funeral you have a different outlook on life. And I had planned my funeral several times during my cancer treatments. It took a long time to realize that I was going to be here.

Now that you're facing a new period in your life, how is it going to be different?

I know now that I am going to be around for a while. I have a four-year-old son, and he has made all the difference in the world. Until you have children, I don't think you can really appreciate what God is all about. We need to know He is our Father and how much He cares for each of us. I thought I understood what love was while I was single, but I really didn't understand. Now it's a completely a different feeling.

So having a son has given you a better understanding of how God relates to you.

Oh, absolutely. It has shown me how God relates to us as human beings and how, because of that love, He was willing to give up His Son to redeem us. Until you have a child you love very much, it's hard to put yourself in God's place to see what it really meant for Him to make that ultimate sacrifice. How He could do that to save us from sins, I find unfathomable in human terms.

Can you think of something specific that started you thinking seriously about life?

Coming back to being raised as an Adventist, you know, I have always had a deep religious faith and I believed in the Sabbath, but I quit living an Adventist life. I associated with non-Adventist friends, and my whole lifestyle changed. It is not that I abandoned the faith, and the faith didn't abandon me—it's just that I grew away from it. It wasn't until my class reunion in Arlington last year, when Valley Grande Academy students from the past 18 years got together, that I started thinking about

it. This was the first time my wife had been to an Adventist church or gathering, and it was unique to her. I just felt a warmth in the people again that I hadn't had for many years. A friend started talking to me about the different versions of the Bible that have come out making it easier to understand. I started investigating for myself, and I find that we are really close to the end time, and it is frightening. At the same time it's exciting.

Are you telling me that you now make Bible study a serious part of your daily life?

Yes, I've started studying more than I've ever done before. I've always had Ellen White's books available, but I've never studied them in depth. I have read different verses in the Bible, but I'd never read the whole Bible through.

It is so exciting right now and invigorating. I have never had a prayer life like I have now. I thought I was close to God in the past, when I was at Keene and even before my cancer, but I feel that I am getting closer to God than I've ever been in my prayer life. I try to spend at least 45 minutes to an hour a day in Bible study and prayer asking for guidance, and it's extremely exciting.

I've been back in the church for about 9 months now. My father and mother raised me in a very liberal Adventist home. We didn't follow church doctrines. We did whatever we wanted to, even though we had the basic beliefs. In church school and academy I saw the Adventist lifestyle, but neither my mom nor my dad followed the teachings, even though they felt they were right.

Because of that, I had no good role model at home. I saw what it was like to be on both sides, and I don't want my son to have that same experience. I want my son to have someone to look up to; I want him to have a role model to show him how to live a Christian life. By God's grace, that's what I am going to be.

(Steve was re-baptized on September 28 and is actively involved in the earliteen Sabbath school, with the hope he will make a positive impact on them during their influential years.)

Heavenly Father, Thank you for your love and mercy!

Opening night of the Ken Cox Crusade at the New Orleans First Church saw an atten-

Church saw an attendance that was far beyond everyone's expectation. The sanctuary was packed with standing room only, chairs in the aisles, people in the lobby and people wedged in like sardines. The overflow room with its remote TV was full. Over 800 people were counted as they watched the multi-media presentation and inspirational music. Five area pastors joined host pastor Will McCall for the largest crusade in the past decade.

John Taylor, pastor from the Hammond-Mandeville district, led out with the children's series nightly. Many non-Adventist parents testified that their children did not want to come initially, but later begged them to return!

"One of the most rewarding aspects of the crusade was the involvement of the laity. The people of the



Cheryl and Manson Valle and sons Billy and Daniel are representative of a number of young families baptized during the Ken Cox crusade in New Orleans.

Johnny Seibert, who had been involved with various "12-step" rehabilitation programs, had been seeking a "higher power" to help him. When he was given tickets to the Ken Cox series, Dimensions in Prophecy, he was skeptical.

"I was afraid they were going to jam the religious wand down my throat," he said. "But the first night I was spellbound. I just knew I'd be back. After the second or third night I was completely engulfed. I saw a side of Jesus I didn't know existed. In learning the truth about hell and the second coming,—I just can't explain how I felt. Now I'm so happy to be a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

church who volunteered for visitation were trained and sent out into the field. This system provides an automatic support system for new converts," McCall stated.

Robert Eubanks, pastor of the area Spanish churches, observed, "It was just beautiful to see the cooperation of the members helping with the children's departments, transportation, ushering, parking, unpacking and packing the equipment, handling the spotlights, etc.

Eubanks reports that of the Hispanics baptized during the crusade, 18 thus far have chosen to become members of the Metairie or New Orleans Spanish churches. On Sabbath morning as they were received into fellowship, we realized that each of them had an initial, direct connection with a church member who was either a Christian nurse, a Bible worker, or an Adventist relative.

To illustrate the point, Jorge Diaz, an air conditioning technician who always helped around the Adventist church to which his wife

and children belonged, attended the meetings, and he too decided to be baptized. Upon emerging from the watery grave, he raised his hands and shouted, "Hallelujah, the battle is over."

Of the individuals who were baptized, many were young couples or families who were baptized together.

> Will McCall, Pastor New Orleans First Church

You've restored my torn body. Thank you, **Heavenly Father!**

I left my house in Keene, Texas about 6:30 a.m. on June 30, 1996, for my daily six-mile run, but today I planned to run 10 miles in preparation for the next marathon. Larry, my husband, ran with me for a mile and half down Old Mansfield Road and then turned back.

I remember watching the beautiful sunrise as I jogged to the five-mile turnaround mark. I'd gone back

about a three quarters of a mile when I saw five dogs coming toward me. I stopped to face them, but they circled around mefive snarling canines urged on, it seemed, by their mutual ferocity.

One of the dogs lunged forward and bit me, and then the others did the same. They appeared to be taking turns.

I screamed: "Somebody, please help me! Jesus, please help me!" and then I shouted "No! Stop!" to the dogs, but they continued their attack as I tried to move on down the road. One of the dogs grabbed my shirt in his mouth and ripped it off my back. "I'm going to die out here," I thought as panic built up inside of me. "And they're going to find me naked."

I used my water bottle as a club, but it came apart. Nothing I did seemed to lessen the vicious attack. Then I fell to a sitting position on the pavement, holding the collars of two of the dogs. If only I can pull them away, I reasoned, I might have a chance. But the dogs had worked themselves into a frenzy, and I couldn't control them.

I struggled to my feet and tried to go farther down the road where there were more houses, but the dogs knocked me down. I glanced down at my legs. "Oh no!" I screamed as I saw that the injuries to my right leg were

"Help!...Somebody please help

At that point I saw a car coming down the road. I raised my hands to wave. If only they could see me...

The Bronco braked to a stop and a man, Rick Hughes, jumped out, grabbed a big stick out of the back of his truck and began to shout at the dogs. "Go!...Get out of here!" Four of the dogs ran, but one continued to gnaw on my leg.

"Stop!" he shouted, waving the stick at the dog. "Get out of here!"



Nancy Schneider

Ann Stogner is a nurse who lives on St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans. Ann heard about the meetings through an advertisement placed on a secular radio station. She figured that if this group were bold enough to advertise in the secular media, she should check it out.

"The series changed my life," Ann says. "I feel that once I was blind, but now I see. My life has turned around and changed for now and the hereafter."

Ann mentions specific teachings that touched her heart such as the truth about the Sabbath and the sanctuary. She keeps a diary of the things she has learned, and she's filled with a sense of wonder at the things in God's Word.

The dog turned to snarl at Rick but retreated as he continued to swing the stick in his direction.

As Rick bent over me and saw the blood spurting from my leg, he asked quietly, "Can you walk?"

"I don't know," I moaned as I tried to get up. He helped me up, and I stumbled to the Bronco. Even though I was covered with blood, Rick gently settled me on the back seat.

"Please take me to Huguley Hospital," I said. "I work there, and my husband is one of the hospital chaplains. People know me, and they'll take care of me."

Rick's wife, Vicki, who was in the front seat with him, called the police on her cellular phone.

"Take her to the ambulance center in Cleburne," they said. Then she called Larry, who said he'd meet us at the hospital. At the Cleburne ambulance center they laid me on the ground, and seven emergency medical technicians worked on me. They put an IV in my arm, raised my legs, and tried to stop the bleeding. My mind was in a whirl. "Can I have some water, something to stop the pain?"

"I'm afraid you will have to wait," replied one of the technicians. "The emergency room doctor wants to see you first."

I tried to forget the burning sensation that seemed to come from every part of my body. In the ambulance I talked non-stop—totally out of character for me, as I'm usually a quiet person. When we arrived at Huguley Medical Center's emergency room and I saw Larry waiting for me, I began to relax and tears came to my eyes.

"I'll be okay now," I said to no one in particular. "I'll be okay." Epilogue

When the emergency room team and plastic surgeon cleaned my wounds, they used 24 feet of sutures in over 400 stitches to sew up the gashes left by the dogs.

The dogs were rounded up by the sheriff and taken into custody. He quarantined them for a rabies test.

People have asked if we plan to sue the dogs' owners, but I don't feel that's my job. They'll just have to answer to God.

Psalm 22:16-20 has taken on new meaning for me now. "Dogs have surrounded me... [they] stare and gloat over me...But you, O Lord, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. Deliver my life from the...power of the dogs." (NIV)

After six weeks, I was once again able to jog six miles several times a week. I hope to compete in at least one marathon by the time I turn 40.

Told to Thurman J. Petty, Jr.

by Nancy Schneider

OKLAHOMA

Jack Francisco, Correspondent

Leadership Camp Provides Inspiration for New School Year

It was the beginning of fall youth leadership weekend for '96. The beautiful setting of Wewoka Woods Adventist Center provided the perfect weather and setting for a weekend in God's great outdoors as leaders from around the state gathered to enhance their skills of leading young people.

Rex Shepherd of the Lifestyle Center of America presented sessions on club leadership and curriculum to the Pathfinder leaders. Jack Francisco, Oklahoma Conference youth director, instructed the Adventurer leaders. Norma Shepherd gave an excellent workshop on Pathfinder honors.

Rodney Grove, Oklahoma Conference president, talked about outreach ministry and how to involve young people. Kevin Costello, Oklahoma Conference treasurer, dealt with insurance issues, induction ceremony, planning ahead, and drill team directions. David Russell, from the Lifestyle Center, and his guitar topped off the weekend by leading out in song services. Teresa Costello and Linda Francisco kept everything running smoothly throughout the weekend.

Sunday morning we switched gears and had nine teachers join in for

Project Wild. Luann Waters, from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, came to show teachers and vouth leaders how to combine teaching and outdoor life. Everyone was enthusiastic about the material they had received.

Plans are already in progress to use this material for class work during the outdoor school week this fall.

Time spent at this leadership camp provided leaders with rich resources they can use to benefit the youth in Oklahoma.



LuAnn Waters of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife (left) talks with Charlotte Kohley and Lee Davidson at Leadership Camp.

OKLAHOMA



Rex Shepherd instructing Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders in the art of leadership.

"Dimes for Debt" Evokes New Impetus to Debt Reduction

While the school teachers were at their pre-school convention held at Wewoka Woods this summer, they discovered that for this facility to become debt-free another \$2.5 million would be needed.

They have decided to take up the



Rodney Grove, president, and Kevin Costello, treasurer of the Oklahoma Conference, examine a three-foot hose filled with \$70 worth of dimes and another holding \$7.50 worth of pennies, making up the first financial contribution from Tulsa Junior Academy to the conference for the Wewoka Woods Adventist Center debt reduction.

challenge and work toward reaching this goal. So, school teachers and students have decided to embark on the concept of one dime at a time. This "Dimes for Debt" campaign is now in full swing with students around the conference collecting dimes.

Tulsa Junior Academy was the first to make a contribution. Dan Brooks, principal, has developed a unique way to hold dimes together that has motivated his students to go all-out in collecting not only dimes but also pennies and quarters.

Brooks purchased clear plastic tubing in three different sizes, one for pennies, another for dimes and the third for quarters. Then he cut them into one-yard lengths and put a cork stopper in the bottom of each one. Now each of his six classrooms has a set of penny and dime plastic holders into which the students put their money. The quarter hose-holder stays in the office.

"In the first three weeks," says Brooks, "the kids, and we have 96 of them in school this year, filled up several hoses. We were able to send our first \$100 with our pastor, Sherman McCormick, to the conference executive committee.

"A 3/4" three-foot hose holds \$70 and the same size holds \$7.50 worth of pennies. Our school and the Tulsa church together have a goal of contributing \$18,000 toward the debt

reduction, and everyone seems enthusiastic," Brooks concluded.

"Anyone wondering what to do with their dimes can give them to our students—they know what to do with them," comments Jack Francisco, Oklahoma Conference education director.

"Dimes for Debt" at 10¢ a time. It's working for Oklahoma!

Oklahoma Welcomes New Staff

Gary and Donna Strang from Chesapeake Conference are serving in the Cincinnati Hills, Cleveland and Ponca City churches.

Charles and Charlotte Kohley and their four sons, are serving in the Bristow, Sapulpa and Sand Springs churches. They are from the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.

Vialo Weis, the newest on the Oklahoma Conference office staff,

will be working in the trust department.



Vialo Weis



Charlotte and Charles Kohley (seated) with sons Robbie, Isaac, Stephen and Luke standing behind.



Gary and Donna Strang

UPCOMING EVENT!

A Youth Rally, December 6-8 at the Tulsa Junior Academy. Guest speaker will be Steve Case from Piece of the Pie Ministry.

For those needing space on the floor at Tulsa Junior Academy and some of Principal Dan Brooks' famous cuisine, the cost will be \$10.

Fall Book and Food Displays

Brought to You by YourAdventist Book Center

Okeene Church	Sat., Nov. 09	Following sundown
Lawton Church	Sun., Nov. 10	2-4 p.m.
Ardmore Church	Mon., Nov. 11	5-7 p.m.
Tulsa Church	Sat., Nov. 16	Following sundown
Ketchum School	Sun., Nov. 17	2-5 p.m.
Bartlesville Church	Mon., Nov. 18	5-7 p.m.
Summit Ridge Church	Sat., Dec. 07	Following sundown
ABC in OKC Open	Sun., Dec. 08	10 a.m4 p.m.
Paralahana ta iba kalaas	- (F P	F. J.Diss.less thereals

Listed above is the balance of our Fall Book and Food Displays throughout the Oklahoma Conference. We look forward to serving you this fall. We encourage pre-orders, especially for case foods. Call us toll free with your pre-order now!

CALL OUR TOLL FREE ORDER LINE 1-800-522-2665

TEXAS

Nilsa Johnson, Correspondent

Alvarado Honored on Her 100th Birthday

Beatriz L. Alvarado was honored at the South McAllen Spanish church on her 100th birthday. She had been instrumental in pioneering efforts to help many of her friends and family know and understand the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Among her progeny are doctors, a retired naval commander, a PhD, eight grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren. All except a few grandchildren were in attendance for this celebration.

Richard C. Parfitt Son-in-law living in Wisconsin

Burleson Adventist School students selling baked goods to help cover expenses of attending Texas Conference outdoor school scheduled for next spring.

BAS 5th and 6th Graders Plan for Outdoor School

August 27 marked the beginning of one of many fund raisers the fifth and sixth-graders of Burleson Adventist School will hold this year. Sponsored by their teachers, Sharon Aalborg and Annette Martes, the students will spend a large part of the year raising money to help defray the cost of students attending Outdoor School at Nameless Valley Ranch in the spring.

In commenting on the success of a recently-held bake sale, Aalborg says, "Annette and I sponsored the bake sale, but the students organized the whole thing themselves." Including the funds from the hot lunch they sponsored that same day, the students raised more than \$200. Future fund raisers include car washes and sales of gourmet pretzels and a school T-shirt.

Donna Songy-Wilson Communication Leader

ACS Holds Mock Disaster Drill in Keene

Joe Watts, director of Adventist Community Services in Texas, orchestrated a disaster drill in response to the possibility of a tornado hitting the Keene, Alvarado and Cleburne area.

"The goal of this exercise was to teach volunteers how to set up and manage an emergency distribution center," said Watts.

Approximately 50 volunteers from YES, the Adventist Youth Emergency Services, and TAEC, Texas Advent Emer-

gency Communication (ham operators) and others established emergency clothing distribution centers at the Alvarado and Cleburne churches and at Chisholm Trail Academy.

The volunteers went through the motions of sorting, sizing and packing clothes for distribution to disaster victims.

The Texas ACS has two 18-wheel trucks, each supplied with clothing, towels, and blankets to serve 2,000 people. Through the years George Schram, community services resource center manager, and his wife, Glenda, have done a terrific job of organizing a group of volunteers who meet each



Joe Watts, Texas Conference Community Service director, instructing volunteers on what they will be expected to do during the disaster drill in Keene.



Chisholm Trail Academy students learning to size donated clothing for use during a disaster.

week to clean, sort and package donated goods in preparation for distribution during a disaster. Excerpted from Keene Reporter

Burleson Women Begin '96-'97 With Vespers

About 20 women attended a special potluck/vespers at the Burleson church the evening of August 23 to kick off the '96-'97 year for "Heartbeat." "Heartbeat" is the name given to women's ministry in the church.

The evening of fellowship began with a potluck of fruits, breads and sandwiches. After supper, co-leader Teri Seiler spoke briefly of plans for the coming year's ministry which focus on family and community service, before introducing guest speaker Sharon Leach.



Sharon Leach being welcomed to the Burleson women's ministry potluck/vespers by Lynn Preston and Jackie Bowyer.

Leach, vice president for advancement at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, spoke on encouragement, drew stories from

personal experience to share with the women. "I think her talk was very applicable to what we're trying to do," said Zina Fritz. "She's an excellent speaker, and she's a good story teller."

Speaking about the evening in general, Suzi Marr said she received a blessing from being with other women in the church. "We need these opportunities

to get to know each other better," she said.

> Donna Songy-Wilson Communication Leader

Brownwood Youth Enjoy Retreat at Port Aransas

This was the third summer that the youth group from the Brownwood church has raised money to go to Port Aransas. When fund raisers did not generate the needed money and it looked like the trip would not materalize, the kids decided to raise the rest of the money themselves. This was a trip they didn't want to miss. So with the necessary funds in hand we headed to the coast for the week of August 8.

Although the trip this year was a little "dull" in comparison to last year - no lost wallets, blowouts, or trips to the emergency room - everyone



The Brownwood church youth group who enjoyed the retreat in Port Aransas are from left back row: Gail Stumph, Travis Irish, Pastor Bob Stumph, Jonas Hernandez, David Beam, Koby Majors, Josh Stumph, Sam Stumph, Front row, Aimee Beam, Shawnna Stepp, Shayla Stepp, Lauren Turner, Susan Stepp, Shelley Stepp.

TEXAS

really enjoyed themselves. We took in plenty of sand, sun, and sea. But the best part of the trip, the part looked forward to the most by the kids, was our time of spiritual renewal. Every evening after sunset we'd spread out our mats on the sand next to the water, sing, study our lesson, and have a special devotional, all led by the youth. We ended the week a little closer to the Lord and to each other.

Susan Stepp, Youth Leader Brownwood Church

Valley Grande Elementary Makes Changes

Valley Grande Elementary has added some new elements to their already busy schedule. The school now offers several enrichment classes: three levels of Spanish, English as a second language classes, and algebra. Through a fund raiser the school will be adding the Accelerated Reader Program which is a computer based testing/record keeping system for literature.

For foreign mission this year students will continue to support Mama Nadia and the fledgling church in the Ukraine. The fifth through eighth graders will continue their support of the Valley Grande Manor where two students go to the manor each day to offer aid and comfort to the elderly who reside there.

James Donlon, Principal Valley Grande Elementary



Ismael Ayala (left back) and DeeAnn Bearden (right back), seventh graders from Valley Grande Elementary, visit the elderly at the Valley Grande Manor.



Weatherford ordination service participants were, from left: William Earnhardt, Jeff Brickell, Sterling Trice, Andrew Pierce, George Hill and their pastor, Joe Gresham.

Weatherford Church Holds Ordination Service

Three elders and two deacons were ordained at the beginning of the new fiscal year at the Weatherford church. These are enthusiastic, dedicated young men who have a vision for sharing God's love in the community and of building up the church family.

Helen M. Harper

CTA Enjoys Week of Prayer with a Difference

Under the direction of Bill Kilgore from Southwestern Adventist University's department of religion, the Chisholm Trail Academy student body were able to put their Christianity into action this fall. In addition to

the daily week of prayer service, students came together every afternoon for three hours to help repair and paint the home of an elderly couple in the Keene community.

Every day several students from each class made up a group of about 20 who used their talents and abilities to restore this old structure. With just a few minor setbacks, like painting themselves instead of the building,

the house facelift soon became a reality.

The students derived satisfaction seeing the results of their work, but also from being able to help those in need. And, of course, the elderly home owners were greatly blessed by this week of prayer with a difference.

Henry Berkner CTA Development Director

Mehlings Celebrate Golden Anniversary

It was a very delightful occasion for Robert and Irene Mehling when, on August 9, 75 friends and relatives gathered in Eureka, Montana, at the home of their daughter Donna and husband James Ehrlich, to celebrate



Irene and Robert Mehling cutting their 50th wedding anniversary cake.

their 50th wedding anniversary. Their son Doug and wife Dana and two sons from Tyler joined them for the

Eight of Bob's brothers and sisters with their mates came from the West Coast. Irene was delighted to see 25 of her Canadian relatives arrive as well

The theme, "It Takes a Family," typified the gathering as the children shared what it was they did to make their families happy. The speaker, Tom Waters, concluded his remarks with a renewal of vows for all couples present.



New sign identifies the Rusk Seventh-day Adventist Church.



The 4th of July parade in Seguin, Texas announced the NET '96 meetings sponsored by the local Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastor Carl Culpepper rode on the float along with youth members from the local church. The Pathfinders passed out frisbees with a Net '96 invitation on them. A huge crowd lined the parade route for the annual parade.



Texas Conference president, Steve Gifford, delivering the congratulatory message at the inauguration service of the Houston Korean church on Sabbath, August 10, 1996. Pastor Benjamin Soh translated the sermon.

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA

Pete Kostenko, Correspondent

Shreveport South Church Consecrates Sanctuary

When the facilities at the Virginia Street church in Shreveport became too small and consideration was being given to expanding, a group of members decided to moved to another part of the city and begin a new church. With conference approval, a new congregation of 39 charter members was organized early in 1964. This congregation, known as the Broadmoor Seventh-day Adventist Church, met for a time in rented facilities from the Christian Church and then later from the Presbyterians.

After four months as an organized church, when \$300 had been set aside in the church building fund, a business meeting was called on July 26, 1964, to select a search committee of three individuals to find a suitable building

A three-year search of possible building sites in both Broadmoor and across the river in Bossier City ended with a choice 3.26 acre tract on Colquitt Road in south Shreveport. A fund-raising



Former pastors of the Shreveport South church who attended the open house are: (back row, from left) Deward Edgmon from Georgia; Glenn Farnsworth, DeQueen, Arkansas; Jim Herman, Collegedale, Tennessee; (front row) Jerry Oster, Slidell, Louisiana; Leonard Lovell, Decatur, Arkansas; Brian Danese, current pastor; and Roger Martin from Washington.



Guests and members met in the Shreveport South church on September 14 for an open house and dedication service of the newly finished sanctuary with seating capacity of 450. Photo: Bill Woodruff

program headed by Henry Carubba brought in \$12,750 to pay for the church site. The first phase of the South church building program included a chapel with Sabbath school rooms and a small kitchenette. This was completed in 1971. A formal open house was held on April 23.

The next construction phase did not begin until 1984, and it was at this time that the foundations were laid for the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. Upon the completion of the fellowship hall, another open house was held on September 21, 1985. But the sanctuary stood incomplete with just its walls and roof for the next 10 years until the members once again were energized to complete their project.

The crowning act in the long 32year building program was a consecration service and open house held on September 14, 1996. Joining in the celebration were guests from far and near, including six former pastors.

This celebration was made complete when the current pastor, Brian Danese, baptized four persons in the new baptistry. This act conveyed very graphically what church is all aboutthe saving of souls.

Answered Questions Lead to Decision to Follow Jesus

When he was just seven, Cameron Miller began asking questions about church practices, especially the ordinances of humility. On communion day Cameron would accompany his grandfather when the church members separated for this important service. Grandfather allowed Cameron to wash his feet while he explained about the bread and the grape juice and how even the



Cameron Miller about to be baptized by his pastor, Brian Danese

unused bread and grape juice were disposed of in a sacred

Cameron asked about the tithe and offering envelopes and why money was put into them. Every time he earned a little money from taking out the trash and doing other jobs at home he would put some money into a tithe envelope. Then his mother noticed that he was putting all his allowance in the envelope. That led to a better explanation about tithing.

Just after his eighth birthday Cameron put a note in his tithe envelope saying that he wanted to be baptized. This was during the Lyle Albrecht evangelistic meetings and a week of prayer Albrecht conducted at Shreveport Junior Academy where he talked to the children about the love of Jesus.

Sharon Crooms, an active lay person in the Shreveport South church, studied with Cameron through winter, spring, and summer. At the recent Shreveport South church open house, Cameron and three others were baptized by the pastor, Brian Danese.

Cameron's questions, answered by patient adults, had led to a decision to follow Jesus!

Ukraine Evangelism

A question that was asked of us many times while we were preparing for our third evangelistic trip to the Ukraine was, "Why do you want to go there again?" The answer has three parts: God had put a fire in our hearts to work there; God had opened the door; and it appeared that God had enabled us to accomplish more with our ministry there than anywhere

This year we shortened the crusade time from six to four weeks and planned a crusade in only one town. But after three different requests, we finally agreed to hold a crusade in both Zhashkiv and Buky.

We lived in Zhashkiv with Gelena Karnitska, our interpreter, and Alla, who led out in child evangelism in both cities. A retired pastor, Vladimir, and his wife, Nadya, served

RKANSAS-LOUISIA



This building, left over from an American power project begun in 1910, will become the church home for the believers of the new congregation in Buky, Ukraine. Members are looking for the \$3,000 to purchase, renovate and equip the building. Photo: Bud Schermerhorn

as our driver and cook. Lina and Svieta, two young ladies, each came to provide keyboard and singing for half our crusade.

The church in Zhashkiv is small and only two or three years old. Pastor Valoda has three other churches in villages. He travels by bus or bicycle. Our meetings there were in the theater. Maybe that explains why the large percentage of regular attendees were mid-teen youth.

We had a special burden for 10 young men between the ages of 18 and 20 who attended quite regularly and who asked many questions. So we sent for Oleg, a 22-year-old who had been baptized at our crusade last

vear and who has been very active in the youth program ever since.

We felt impressed that he should give his testimony. He came the last Tuesday of our campaign. He played his guitar and sang and gave his testimony. His plans were to stay and help for the last few days of the crusade. That was

when we discovered that God had plans we didn't know about.

We had noticed ladies who often sat on a bench in front of an apartment about ten yards from our entrance who would converse in sign language. We wished we could talk with them.

Unknown to us, Oleg had begun learning sign language three months before from a deaf lady in a village near his home.

He was able to converse with these two ladies and invited them to the meetings. They came, and Oleg signed for them. Their two married daughters also came and all responded to the appeal for baptism.

Oleg spent many hours with them in the library as they studied Bible teachings together. On the last Sabbath these four joined the others in baptism to became part of God's remnant church.

In the small town of Buky with a population of 10,000 there was no church. There were churches in villages seven and 10 kilometers away, and some members would walk to and from those villages each day to

attend our meetings. The meetings were held at 2:00 p.m. five days a week for three weeks. Since the conclusion of our campaign, meetings have continued on Sunday after-

How much difference does it make when we go over to help them? Last year when a local pastor held meetings in Buky, he put up posters and passed out handbills, and three people came. This year when the posters advertised an evangelist from America, our average attendance was between 75 and 100.

Our schedule was intense with 57 sermons in 31 days, services in five other churches, leading out in seven baptismal services, 132 decisions for baptism with 30 baptized so far, and a new congregation organized in Buky. Please pray for the pastors and lay members as they continue the harvest.

> Bud Schermerhorn, Pastor Batesville District

Shreveport South Hosts **Cooking School**

With today's exploding interest in health, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a unique opportunity to open hearts and break down prejudice by sharing the health message.

With this in mind, Sharon Crooms led out in a three-day, handson cooking class at the Shreveport South church. The Lord opened the

> way with radio, newspaper and television advertisements. Bill Woodruff, former Arkansas-Louisiana president, designed an attractive cooking school handbill on computer.

Last year our church had hosted a cooking school to which 27 non-members came. This year there was a 33 percent increase in enrollment of non-members. Participants came from all over, some even from out of town.



Deaf members recently baptized in Zhashkiv are, from left: Nadya, Tanya, Oleg, Maya, and Ina, with Pastor Vladimir kneeling. Photo: Bud Schermerhorn

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA



Sharon Crooms (left), cooking school instructor, with B.J. Steadman.

One lady told me this class was an answer to her prayers, as her son had been told by his doctor to become a vegetarian because of a kidney problem. Three ladies attended who wanted to learn how to conduct a cooking class for their own church.

At the close of the last session the participants lingered, seeming to enjoy the Christian fellowship. Invitations were given to the upcoming NET '96 program.

B.J. Steadman, Correspondent Shreveport South Church consecration for those in attendance.

Gene and Sherry Clapp from Houston, Texas taught group skills and how to teach progressive class work when there is no church school to support the Pathfinder program.

Gary Manley and Al Bills were the honor class instructors. A special feature of the weekend was the demonstration of the Pathfinder Internet webb page and a computerized Bible study program that is being developed by

Mike Salzman.

The highlight of the weekend was the induction of Delmer Cook into the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Pathfinder Hall of Fame. Cook, a pastor who for many years has lead out in the Pathfinder program, has now retired in DeQueen, Arkansas. He and his wife Lois have shared their home and lives with Pathfinders wherever they have lived. They have been a witness to young people



Delmer Cook (left) receiving the Pathfinder Hall of Fame Award from conference Pathfinder coordinator, Lloyd Clapp.

through the years.

Another highlight of the weekend was the recognition of Merna Spring for her 40 years of service in the Pathfinder organization. She is a constant encouragement to all of us in the Pathfinder/Adventurer program.

Lloyd Clapp, Pathfinder Coordinator Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

Pathfinder and Adventurer Staff Attend Leadership Weekend

Approximately 100 Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders and staff attended leadership weekend, September 6-8, at Camp Yorktown Bay in Mountain Pine, Arkansas.

Tibor Shelly, featured speaker and newly-elected conference youth ministries director, reminded the group that as leaders they were witnesses to the young people of what followers of the Lord should be like. Shelley also shared child evangelism ideas and the importance and responsibility of leadership. His concluding address ended with a prayer of



"Young at Heart" Merna Spring (left) was recognized for 40 years of service to Pathfinders as Lloyd Clapp expresses appreciation.

ADVENTIST SINGLES MINISTRIES

Arkansas Chapter

The Arkansas Chapter of the Adventist singles Ministries cordially invites you to the Little Rock, Arkansas, Seventh-day Adventist Church for Christmas '96. December 6-8. Don Gibson, Little Rock church pastor and alumnus of ASM of Ohio, will speak on "Heaven's Hedges," regarding personal relationships, heartbreak, and restoration with heaven as our goal. If you are not on the mailing list, please contact Mike Taylor at (501) 225-7096 for more details.



Gastern Arkansas friends knew it as the West Memphis church. When it received a general facelift and a new roof recently, the congregation also gave it a new name, since it better reflected its location. Its new name is Marion Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in the city limits of Marion, a fast growing bedroom community of Memphis.

Among the innovative programs are the worhip service and Sabbath school which are held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sabbath evening. Ertis Johnson, pastor, has two other churches in this district, Forrest City and West Helena.

TEXICO

Eunice Fisher, Correspondent

Texico Youth Serve in the Philippines

Eight young people from the Texico Conference began a journey on May 28, 1996, that has changed their lives forever. They participated in the San Luis mission trip to the Philippines, which was coordinated by Dionicio Rivera and resulted in the baptism of more than 13 persons.

The trip was part of the Voice of

Prophecy's Target 50,000 in the Philippines which resulted in more than 31,000 persons being baptized, as was reported in the July edition of the Adventist Review. This created a great need for additional churches to house all these new members, and thus the San Luis mission trip came into being. The plan was to help fund and construct one church and to hold a week-long crusade in the evenings in

the Baler, Aurora, church. However, enough money was generated to construct two other churches and to buy land for yet another church.

In addition, money was raised for the tuition of a student, Philip, at Philippine Union College, who, for financial reasons, had been forced to withdraw from the ministry program. However, because of his love for God and the ministry, he had conducted



The mission group from New Mexico with their friends in the Philippines.

TEXICO

crusades all summer long. Philip was the speaker at the crusade held at the Baler church. Now, with his tuition in hand, he will be able to finish school and become an ordained minister for God.

In addition to the 13 persons baptized June 9, 1996, many joined the Baler church and were baptized the following Sabbath. To accommodate interested people who were unable to attend the June meetings while the young people from New Mexico were there, another crusade was planned for July.

Participants of the mission trip knew they were accepting the challenge of the great commission. They were prepared to face whatever hardships were necessary, even if it meant sleeping on the floor and having no air conditioning. They returned to the United States energized by this mission experience of having touched the lives of others, and of experiencing God's blessings.

Because the work is not yet complete, another mission trip to the Philippine Islands is planned for the summer of 1998. These young people have caught the vision of spreading the word of Jesus' soon return, and they don't want to just be spectators

but active participants in the Lord's work.

Irish Faye V. Rivera

Amarillo Youth Conduct Services

September 7 was "Youth Day" at the Amarillo Olsen Park church, with the juniors, earliteens and youth presenting the Sabbath school and church services. Lucy Ruiz and Willyta Ruiz-Wamack coordinated the event.

Solos, group songs, a girls' trio, and scripture readings, prayers, and poems highlighted the program. The mission report was a dramatization of current events in Brazil.

During family time, the youth shared thoughts about loving one another, what it means to be part of a family and how to minister to our youth. Parents also read poems, passages from the Spirit of Prophecy and Bible texts about raising children for the Lord.

A unique story on the life of Jesus kept the smaller ones spell-bound as they watched balloons of various colors illustrate the story. When the narrator told about going to heaven with Jesus, wide-eyed youngsters watched the balloons float together to the top of the church

where they stayed during the rest of the service.

The congregation watched in suspense as they listened to a 15-yearold, Aron Cohen, demonstrate the faith and miracles connected with the life of Elijah. In "My Cup Runneth Over," he would tell of blessings and then empty a pitcher of water into a bowl only to find, a few minutes later, that the pitcher had miraculously filled with water once again. At the end of his talk he poured the water from the bowl back into the pitcher, but the pitcher could not hold it all, thus illustrating how God pours out His blessings until our cups overflow!

Lucy Ruiz closed the service by dedicating two songs, one to the parents and the other to the young people.

> Charlene Chapman Communication Leader

Women Experience Spiritual Renewal at Retreat

A "mountain-top high" was experienced by 234 women who came to the annual Texico Conference women's retreat at the Glorieta Conference Center in the Glorieta Rocky Mountains 19 miles east of Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 27-29. They came from Arkansas,

Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, California, New Mexico and Honduras, with the largest group coming from the North Valley Spanish church in Albuquerque. These women came for spiritual renewal and fellowship with their sisters in Christ and left with a renewed determination to be more active in sharing their faith. The theme for the two-day

The theme for the two-day convocation, "Sweet Hour of Prayer," was reinforced by Carrol Johnson-Shewmake, keynote speaker, who used the Old Testament wilderness sanctuary to illustrate the steps we can take to develop a greater intimacy with God.

Morning devotionals were by Ruth Zamora. Break-away sessions were conducted by Connie Haglund, Hazel Curtis



The youth group who presented Sabbath services in the Amarillo Olsen Park church are from left: Lucy Ruiz, Cassie Ratcliff, Ashleigh Cohen, Charles Mitchell, Ben Andrews, Brandon Shedd, Aron Cohen, Morgan Chacon, Megan Melashenko, and Willyta Ruiz-Wamack.



The tranquil surroundings of the Glorieta Conference Center provided a spiritual setting for the Texico women's retreat, September 27-29.

of Albuquerque was introduced as the new women's director along with Ruth Izquierdo from El Paso, who serves as the Spanish coordinator.

> Barbara I. Mitzelfelt Women's Ministries

CORRECTION

In the October issue on page 21, the photo in the right-hand column correctly identifies the boy in the photo as Peter DeWeber. However, Peter was not chosen Pathfinder of the Year and Camper of the Year. It was his brother Alex, pictured on page 22 of the October issue, who received these honors. Our apologies to Alex.

and Retta Michaelis, Lourdes Morales-Gudmondsson was the speaker Fall Book and Food for the Spanish meetings. A Sabbath Displays afternoon organ concert by Carolyn Gates on the Glorieta electronic Brought to You by YourAdventist Book Center organ provided quiet time for medita-

Deming Church	Thu., Nov. 21	5-7 p.m.
El Paso Central English	Sat., Nov. 23	Following sundown
Roswell Church	Sun., Nov. 24	2-4 p.m.
Abilene Church	Mon., Nov. 25	5-7 p.m.
	Drops Only	
Pecos Church	Thu., Nov. 21	8-9 a.m.
Las Cruces Church	Fri., Nov. 22	11 a.mnoon

Alamogordo Church Sun., Nov. 24 9-10 a.m. **Big Spring Church** Mon., Nov. 25 11 a.m.-noon We look forward to serving you this fall with the Fall Book and Food Displays. Mark the

date on your calendar, and we will see you then. Remember to pre-order, especially for the case foods. Pre-orders are essential for the drops.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

The Saturday evening banquet under the direction of Jackie Garrett ended with a classical/sacred concert by the Salcedo sisters who shared their vocal talents as well as their skills on the violin, flute and piano. Dorane Jeffries and Barbara

Mitzelfelt, who have served as co-

directors for the past four years, were

honored by the Southwestern Union

and Texico Conference. Wendy Redic

Bill Wright, Correspondent

Houston Youth Share Musical Talents

tion.

Several Adventist youth were spreading the Gospel throughout the Houston community during the summer. Jamie Ben, Monique Dorsett, Damien and Derrick Cherry, all of Word of Faith church; Renee Bennet of Fondren Southwest church; and Joy Wilson of Bellfort church participated in a community teen

mass choir called The Missouri City Teen Mass Choir.

The choir just released their live spirit-filled album entitled "Jamming Because of Jesus." As non-denominational choir, it is made up of 60 gifted teenagers, ages 13-19, from various church affiliations.

Four of the eight songs on the album are led by Adventist youth. "We are very proud of their eagerness to stand for what they believe and to

share Bible truth with others of their age from differing backgrounds," comments Linda Moore

The choir is under the direction of Kim Yvette Glasper, director of music at Word of Faith church, Kim's son, Robert, a piano student at the High School of Performing Arts, is co-producer. He also wrote four of the songs on the album. Sammie Relford, a veteran in the music business, serves as associate producer.

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Truly Thankful

There was a time when children sang "Over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go." In those simple days of the past the family actually gathered around the table and offered thanks to God for the blessings to the family, loved ones, community and the nation.

Today it's "over the freeway and through the ticket booth, to the game we go." Times have changed and we only long for or remember the simpler days. How is it with us? Are we truly thankful as we reflect at this Thanksgiving season how God has blessed us and our families?

In these modern times, even our Thanksgiving dinner may be overindulgent. One consumer report stated that the average adult American will consume 8,000 calories and gain three pounds or a collective total of 825 million pounds at a cost of \$3.00 per pound. This equals 2.5 billion dollars for our day of celebrating our thankfulness. These statistics make one wonder just whom are we thanking?

Our early church fathers sacrificed in many ways to help the young Seventh-day Adventist Church survive. In the January 4, 1881 Review and Herald, an article was written concerning our thankfulness. "Come to the Lord with hearts

overflowing with thankfulness for past and present mercies and manifest your appreciation of God's bounties by bringing to Him your thank offerings." *Desire of Ages*, page 65, says, "The offering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor...If we have given our hearts to Jesus, we will also bring our gifts to him."

At this Thanksgiving season, let us truly reflect on our blessings and join hands around the banquet table provided by God and celebrate His blessings in the old-fashioned way we all did in simpler days.

Harvey J. Byram Trust Services Director





Attendance On Opening Doubles From Previous Year

An exciting picture emerged as the phones and fax machine at the Southwestern Union office began churning out the facts and figures of NET '96's opening night on Monday morning, October 6. It soon became evident that the preparation, planning and promotion was paying off, for in spite of a few anxious moments when the first transmission switched from English to Spanish and back to English, every night since then the program has come through.

Opening night attendance in the Southwestern Union was over 8,700. Approximately 1,500 of the attendees were non-members. And in some cases the attendance is growing. Robert Costa, pastor of the Austin Spanish church, says, "The opening night we had 70 visitors and 200 members attending. The next night there were 80 visitors and 230 mem-

bers who came.

"Members are doing their homework by inviting their neighbors. While in the neighborhood laundry, a young woman who is a member of our church began a conversation with another women who was there. She was so impressed by what the young woman told her that she came to the meetings the next night and gave her heart to Jesus. She requested that her twin babies be baptized, so we arranged a dedication service for the next meeting. So on Sunday evening before Mark Finley's sermon began we had a child dedication service. The mother gave a wonderful testimony and mentioned that now she had found a church family to which she could belong."

The New Braunfels church could not afford a new satellite system, so they bought an old one for \$500. A neighbor down the street who installed these systems got it going about two months ago. Then two weeks before NET '96 was to begin, rain, lightening and a wind storm damaged the dish. The satellite man came back and worked until after midnight on several occasions trying

to get the system working again, finally admitted that the dish was no longer repairable.

This man, who had volunteered so many hours trying to fix the system, came the next morning (Sabbath) and installed a new 10-foot dish and had the system working by Sabbath school time. The beauty of the story is that he saw the needs of a small church, donated his working time and the new satellite dish in order to have everything ready on opening night!

According to the North American Division, attendance across the division was over 120,000, making it almost double the attendance on opening night at the NET '95 meetings.

Dem Robles NET '96 Coordinator

United Way Donations to ADRA

Individuals wishing to give to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency through the United Way Campaign may do so by marking #1401 in the designated place on the donation card.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

SWAU Introduces New Faculty

Six full-time professors and two administrators have joined the Southwestern Adventist University faculty for the 1996-97 academic year. They are Randall Butler, II, Ph.D, library director and assistant professor of history; Jerry Chi, Ph.D, assistant professor of business; Michael England, M.Ed., assistant professor of education; Joyce Melius, M.S.N., associate professor of nursing; David Sowder, B.S., assistant director of information services; Cathy Turner, Ph.D, chair of nursing department; Lawrence Turner, Jr., Ph.D, associate professor of computer science; and Janelle Williams, B.S., dean of women.

Butler is director of the library and teaches in the history department. He received his B.S. from Walla Walla College and later completed his Ph.D. at Brigham Young University. He has authored various articles in periodicals such as ConservatioNews and CAN. He comes to Keene from Northern Arizona University where he was assistant professor of the history department. He and his wife Donna have three children, Laurie, Randall III, and Robert.

Chi is an assistant professor in the business department. He is a graduate of Andrews University where he received both his M.B.A. and his Ph.D. He received his second Ph.D from Illinois State University. Most recently, he was at Illinois State University where he was a researcher for the Center of Finance. Chi and his wife, Grace, have three children, David, Hannah and Joseph.

England joins the education department as an assistant professor. He is a graduate of Andrews University where he received his B.S. in elementary education. He has completed his masters in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Administration. He is currently working on completing his Ph.D. in Leadership with emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction. He and his wife Lorene come to Keene from South Bend, Indiana.

Melius is an associate professor of



Among the eight new faculty to join Southwestern Adventist University are a husband and wife team, Larry and Cathy Turner. Cathy is the chair of the nursing department, and Larry teaches in the mathematics department. Photo: Tobe Watts

the nursing department. She is a graduate of Southwestern Adventist College where she received her A.S. and B.S.N. She recently received her M.S.N. from the University of Texas

at Arlington. She and her husband Carl reside in Arlington.

Cathy Turner joins the university as chair of the nursing department. Cathy received her B.S. from Columbia Union College. She continued on to complete her M.S.N. at the University of Tennessee and her Ph.D. from Andrews University.

Lawrence Turner joins the department of mathematics/physical and computer sciences as an associate professor. Lawrence is a graduate of Pacific Union College

where he acquired both his B.S. and M.A. He went on to Michigan State University where he completed his M.S. and Ph.D. The Turners served at Andrews University before moving to Keene. Together they have five children, Jody, Cheryl, Jason, Sonja, and Iill.

Williams replaces Jeanine Dilts as the new dean of women. In 1993, she received her B.S. from Andrews University. She served as dean of women at Upper Columbia Academy from 1993-95. She went on to Wisconsin Academy for a year before her move to Keene. Williams and her husband Robbie were married in June 1995.

> Lorena Gayao Sophomore Biology Major

Student Enrollment Meets New High

Southwestern Adventist University has, once again, set an enrollment record. In its eighth consecutive year of increase, SWAC reached 1,030 students for the 1996 fall semester. This is a gain of 29 students over last year's dramatic over-the-top enrollment of 1,001. The increase is the result of additional full-time, oncampus students.

"T am very pleased to see a continuation of our steady growth," said Marvin Anderson, president. "Our institution has a reputation for quality academics and friendliness, and those characteristics are important to students. Even in these first weeks of school, I have already seen a



Chipie Gombwa, a junior accounting major, welcomes a fellow student at this year's handshake. Immediately following fall registration, Handshake is a nice way to allow all of the student body to become acquainted. Photo: Tobe Watts

comraderie and enthusiasm among the students that is not often seen on other campuses."

This year's student body is diverse, representing 43 of the 50 states in the USA and 35 other countries. Over half of the students come from outside Texas; 83 come to SWAU from outside of the United States. The adult degree program also saw an increase from last year's 226 students to 236 this semester.

Christina Cervantes Junior Elementary Education Major

Southwestern Adventist University

Calendar of Events Friday, December 6 —

7:30 p.m.: The Mizpah Choraliers present Handel's "Messiah"

Saturday, December 7 — 8:00 p.m.: The SAC Band Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8 — The annual Candle Walk Monday, January 6, 1997

—9:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.: Spring Registration.

For information about preregistration for the spring semester call 1-800-433-2240.

Toll-free Prayer Line Lends Support for Parents

ParentTalk, a magazine for Seventh-day Adventist parents, features a toll-free number which parents can call and leave a prayer request. Messages are written out, shared, and prayed over by ParentTalk staff each Monday morning at 8:30 Mountain Time.

The editors believe this ministry to families extends beyond the printed page. The 800 number has provided readers with a means of sharing prayer requests with editors, and the readers report to them later about how God has answered their prayers.

Creation Illustrated Holds Photo Contests

A Southwestern Union photographer, Michael Hartung of Flower Mound, Tex., captured an award in a quarterly photo contest conducted by Creation Illustrated magazine, a full-color Christian nature periodical published by ASI members Tom and Jennifer Ish.

As a reprieve from the daily rigors of life, Creation Illustrated has

been very well received nationwide with its no advertising, Bible-based, spiritual enrichment through nature for the whole family. The photography awards range from \$100 for the front cover award to \$50 for first place and \$25 for second place in the categories of Best Nature Photo, Creatures Near and Dear to Us, and the Creation Story feature.

After three years and 10 editions, this top-quality church-supporting ministry has brought inspiration to its readers, some of whom call it the Christian *National Geographic*.

For more information on submissions, subscriptions, or how your church or school might use *Creation Illustrated* as a fundraiser or as an outreach to your community, write to: Creation Illustrated, P.O. Box 7955, Auburn, CA 95604, or call (800) 360-2732.

Dialogue Targets A Forgotten Majority

More than 150,000 Seventh-day Adventist young adults are studying in non-Adventist colleges and universities around the world, as compared to 57,000 students attending our institutions of higher learning. Most of those studying on public campuses do so due to the unavailability of Adventist colleges or specific degree programs in their own countries, or due to family and financial factors. These students are highly motivated and intelligent young adults whose valuable talents the Church needs to achieve its mission.

On the secular campus,
Adventist students face serious
challenges to their Christian faith,
life and practice—including creation, Sabbath observance, and
Adventist lifestyle. They need
affirmation in their commitment to
Adventist faith and values, and
encouragement to remain loyal to
their church and its mission.

In several areas of the world, Adventist students on secular campuses have organized themselves into associations and have obtained recognition from college and university authorities. Other students, however, have traveled away from home and live where there is little denominational support. Eventually, many of these students occupy leadership positions in government, business, education and other significant segments of society. Their influence in the community and their support to the Church are invaluable. Some graduates become effective denominational employees.

In 1995 the world church leadership issued the AMiCUS Guidelines, which outline the role of each denominational entity in ministering to Adventist students in secular campuses. AMiCUS has also published a source book on Adventist Ministry on the Public University Campus with ideas on how to start and carry out a successful campus program. To obtain a copy of the guidelines or the source book, contact AMiCUS-Dialogue through one of the numbers listed below.

Humberto M. Rasi, Director Education Department and vice chairman of the AMiCUS Committee at the General Conference

Dialogue for you, FREE!

If you are a Seventh-day Adventist student attending a non-Adventist college or university, the Church has a plan that will allow you to receive Dialogue free while you remain a student. Published three times a year, this international network journal addresses issues that you face in your studies and in your daily life. All you need to do is to fill out and mail back a pre-stamped survey card. To obtain the Dialogue Survey Card, contact us through one of the following numbers: phone 1-800-226-5478; fax (301) 622-9627; e-mail via CompuServe: 104472,1154 or 102555,2215.

If you are no longer a student but wish to obtain a sample copy of *Dialogue*, request it through any of the numbers listed above.

Adventist Health System Sunbelt Changes Its Name

The corporate board voted on September 26 to shorten the name of Adventist Health System Sunbelt Healthcare Corporation to Adventist Health System (AHS).

"We have been anticipating this change for several months," said Mardian J. Blair, president of Adventist Health System.

Adventist Health System Sunbelt Healthcare Corporation will remain the legal name of the corporation, but it will be referenced as Adventist Health System for all general purposes.

Because the corporation is involved with business endeavors outside of the "Sunbelt" region, the word Sunbelt has been removed from the name.

AHS to Lend Financial Support to Adventist Colleges

Adventist Health System is undertaking a new business endeavor which will ultimately provide endowments to benefit the allied health and business programs at the Adventist colleges in the Southern and Southwestern states.

This new company, Adventist Care Centers, Inc. (ACC), will be managed through a partnership between Sunbelt Health Care Centers (SHCC) and the Adventist educational institutions, Southern Adventist University (Collegedale, TN), Southwestern Adventist University (Keene, TX) Oakwood College (Huntsville, AL) and Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (Orlando, FL).

"Adventist Care Centers will expand awareness and the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, while supporting and providing

endowments for higher education programs," said Glen Choban, president of SHCC. "These endowments will result in a continuing flow of funds for partnering colleges through the acquisition and operation of nursing homes."

Nursing homes for Adventist Care Centers will be purchased through capital provided by Sunbelt Health Care Centers and Adventist Health System. Acting as the management company, SHCC will lead the acquisitions process, identifying and negotiating acquisition agreements on behalf of Adventist Centers.

Although Sunbelt Health Care Centers will provide the appropriate resources and initial acquisition costs, it is expected that Adventist Care Centers will repay SHCC for its capital and start-up costs once the nursing home becomes a profitable operation.

"The colleges will not be asked to make any contributions and will have no risk involved with the acquisition



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New Release "Christmas Reflections" now available

of these nursing homes," said Choban. The profit from established homes will be divided equally between the partnering colleges and Sunbelt Health Care Centers."

In anticipation of growth through the acquisition of an estimated 10 nursing homes in the next five years, Bill Jacobson, former vice president of operations for SHHC, will shift roles as the new vice president for acquisitions and business development to assist the company in locating and purchasing nursing homes. In addition to nursing homes, Sunbelt Health Care Centers may also purchase assisted living facilities to be part of ACC.

Sunbelt Health Care Centers will work with Adventist Health System and the member education institutions to develop a governing board with equal representation. It is proposed that the Board will be appointed by the end of this year with four members from Adventist Health System and one member from each of the colleges.

Kimberly Carr Communications Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIAMI MARANATHA CHURCH CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church, 18900 NW 32nd Ave., Miami, FL 33055, will commemorate their 20th anniversary November 15-17. Former members are invited. Guest speakers will be: Friday evening, Obed Graham, Florida Conference president; Sabbath morning, Malcolm Gordon, Southern Union president; and Sunday evening at the banquet, Roy Ashmeade. For information call 305-620-9091.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE seeks applicants for a tenure-track position in Biology. PhD required. Applicants expected to teach in 3 of the following areas: ecology, genetics, development, molecular techniques, marine biology, general biology, biology for general studies. Supervision of undergraduate and graduate theses also expected. Preference given to candidates with teaching experience, established research program, and interest in participation at our marine station. Position available 7/15/97. Applications accepted until 11/15/96 or until position is filled. Interested Adventists should send vitae, brief statement of teaching and research interests/goals and 3 letters of recommendation to Susan Dixon, Chair, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Walla Walla College, 204 S. College Ave., College Place, WA 99324. For further information contact Dr. Dixon at dixosu@wwc.edu or 509-527-2603. 11-1t

FAMILY PRACTICE AND INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIANS WANTED. Growing primary care practice in rural setting with easy access to tertiary care medical centers and multi-mall shopping. SDA hospital and SDA K-12 school. Call or write Ralph H. Ruckle, MD for more information. 104 Redbud Dr., Portland, TN 37148; phone 615-325-7337 or fax 615-325-0164.

RN with proven leadership experience and demonstrated program development skills sought to plan and implement parish nurse program in urban setting. Candidate must possess deep passion for Adventist mission and a calling for community service. BSN required. Send resume to Erin Denholm at PorterCare at Home, 1873 S. Bellaire, Suite 800, Denver, CO 80222 or fax 303-765-6565.

The BUSINESS DEPT at Southwestern Adventist University expanding. New position beginning July 1997. Responsibilities include teaching graduate/undergraduate courses. Doctoral degree required, preferably in finance, economics or marketing. Doctorate in accounting or management considered. Teaching experience desirable. Resume: Dr. Marie Redwine, Dean of Graduate Studies, Southwestern Adventist University, Keene, TX 76059. Fax 817-556-4744.

INTERNAL AUDITOR NEEDED. The corporate office of Adventist Health System is seeking candidates who meet the following requirements: 4-year accounting degree; minimum 3.0 GPA; excellent grammar, telephone, organizational and interpersonal skills; proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel preferred; strong time management skills; attention to details; previous auditing experience preferred. Approximately 30% travel. Will assist external auditors with the

fiscal year-end audits, perform policy/procedure and internal control reviews and report on the findings for each review performed. Submit resume to Janet Boggess, Manager of Internal Auditing Services, Adventist Health System, 111 N. Orlando Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789-3675; fax 407-975-1475.

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MISSIONARIES NEEDED in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand—Asia Pacific Division English Language Schools. Volunteers to teach conversational English and Bible (teaching experience not needed—we train). Requirements: SDA, native English speaker, degreed and non-degreed positions. Dedicate one or more years serving Christ. Contact Ray James, 209-267-0416; fax 209-267-0342; e-mail Jamegr@cdepot.net.

MISSIONARIES NEEDED IN KOREA: SDA native English-speaking volunteers; singles or couples (without children) who are college graduates with bachelor's degrees or higher to teach conversational English and Bible for one year or more at the SDA Language Institutes of Korea (teaching experience not necessary—we train you). Benefits include: round-trip ticket, housing, utilities, insurance and stipend. For more information contact Ray James, 40 Pleasant Dr., Sutter Creek, CA 95685. Phone 209-267-0416 or fax 209-267-0342. 5-12t

ADVENTIST FRONTIER MISSIONS, an international church planting agency, is seeking applications for the position of chief financial officer. 5-10 years experience required. CPA helpful. International experience a plus. Salary and benefits comparable to denominational employment. Contact Clyde Morgan at 800-937-4236 or P.O. Box 346, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

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MISCELLANEOUS

SINGLES: Now you can meet and date other Adventists throughout the US. Discreet, confidential, exclusively for Adventists since 1987. Magazine format with enlightening and profitable articles, member ads and more. If you are 18-85 and desire friendship and fellowship, mail stamped, self-addressed #10 size envelope to:DISCOVER, 24128 Kane Ave., Glenwood, IA 51534.

BARITONE WANTED. After 35 years in gospel music, Jack Veazey, baritone for The Heralds Quartet, is retiring. We are looking for someone interested in a career in gospel music evangelism to replace him. The prerequisites for this career position are: ability to read music on sight, excellent pitch and rhythm capabilities, a baritone range, and a personal lifestyle reflective of the highest Christian ideals. Must be willing to commit his life to a minimum of 5 years in this ministry. Send resume and sample recording of solo voice to The Heralds Ministries, PO Box 1222, Simi Valley, CA 93062-1222. Phone: 805-520-9544; fax: 805-520-1220; e-mail: TheHeralds@aol.com 11-1t

FABULOUS NEW CHRISTMAS GIFT ASSORTMENT of beautifully illustrated witnessing magazines: Peace Above the Storm (Steps to Christ). The Touch of Love (from Desire of Ages), and the brand new America-Super Power of Prophecy (from Great Controversy). Share your faith this holiday season. 15 magazines for just \$10. (plus \$3 S&H) or 50 magazines for \$17.50 (plus \$5.50 S&H). Envelopes available. Call 800-777-2848. Ask about our volume discounts. 11-2t YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT CHRISTIAN CRUISE. Cast off to Playa del Carmen and Cozumel from Tampa, March 2-7, spring break. Fun and sun with Christian friends. The entire ship is ours. Snorkel and scuba dive. Visit ancient Maya ruins. Enter the basketball or volleyball tournament. Enjoy Christian comedy and creative worship with TRUTH, Paul and Nicole Johnson, Walter Pearson, Smuts van Rooyen, Karl Haffner, Steve Arrington and more. From \$495 (includes tips and port taxes). Sponsor: Florida Conference Youth/ Young Adult Ministries. Preregistration: 800-883-9020. 11-2t

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ADVENTIST SINGLES PROFILE EXCHANGE—The largest collection of SDA professional singles' photofiles in new directory published by Loma Linda Chapter of Adventist Singles Ministries. First issue Jan., 1997. Place ad \$3; purchase magazine \$15; updated semiannually. Send SASE to Inland Empire Singles, Box 1836, Loma Linda, CA 92354.

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11-2t

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Position Available
Vice President
for Research Affairs

Loma Linda University, a Seventh-day Adventist health sciences university, announces a search for a vice president for research affairs. LLU is currently expanding its research program in areas such as the biology of cancer and in molecular biology and gene therapy. The position will be available commencing on or about July 1, 1997.

Responsibilities: The vice president for research affairs assists the president of the University in the coordination of the research programs, activities and policies of the University. In this capacity the vice president for research is responsible for University-wide research administration, for the office of sponsored research, and for intellectual properties and technology transfer. He/she also assists the president and/or deans in the administration of research institutes and centers operated by the University. He/she will hold a faculty appointment in an appropriate School of the University and may conduct a research program in her/his area of specialization.

Qualifications: Candidates should hold an earned doctorate, preferably in an area of the health-related sciences. Candidates should have extensive research experience, including a record of major extramural funding. Experience in technology transfer is also desirable. The ability to work well with faculty, staff, and students is essential. Candidates will be expected to articulate a vision for the future of research at LLU, a health-sciences university committed to whole person care.

Applications and Nominations: Applications (letters of interest, resume, names and addresses of three references) or nominations should be submitted to:

Dr. B. Lyn Behrens, President Loma Linda University Loma Linda, CA 92350 E-mail address President@ccmail.llu.edu

Loma Linda University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Women, minorities, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The University does reserve constitutional and statutory rights as a religious institution and employer to give preference to Seventh-day Adventists.

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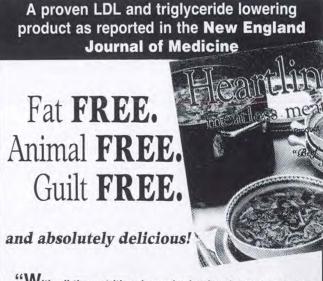
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OBITUARIES

BREI, Gladys Thelma, was born June 10, 1903 in Steele City, NE and died July 20, 1996 in Alva, OK. Survivors: daughter, Carol Keelan, Tooele, Utah and son, Gene, Alva. Dan Jensen

BRITT, Eloise, was born Mar. 3, 1916 in Purvis, MS and died June 7, 1996 in Covington, LA. She is survived by a niece, Shirley Joyce Keller, of Covington.

CARPENTER, Richard S., was born Oct. 4, 1957 in Albuquerque, NM and died July 6, 1996 in Fort



Position Available

Special Assistant to the President and Director of Diversity

Loma Linda University has launched a search process for a special assistant to the president and director of diversity.

Primary functions include to provide leadership in the continuation of the programs in diversity at Loma Linda University which include: multi-cultural awareness, race-ethnicity, international culture awareness, age difference, disability awareness, gender inclusiveness, and learning differences.

Qualifications include: Seventhday Adventist committed to the mission of LLU and the SDA church; an earned doctorate.

Interested individuals should send a curriculum vitae to:

Dr. B. Lyn Behrens, President Loma Linda University Magan Hall Loma Linda, CA 92350

Loma Linda University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Women, minorities, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The University does reserve constitutional and statutory rights as a religious institution and employer to give preference to Seventh-day Adventists.

Worth, TX. Survivors: wife, Terri Lyn, Keene, TX; sister, Cindy Bechtelheimer, Cleburne, TX; 2 nieces; and 2 nephews.

DANOFSKY, Ruth E., was born June 15, 1900 in Haywarden, lowa and died July 25, 1996 in Corpus Christi, TX. Survivors: son, Richard, Corpus Christi; 3 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

GIDDENS, Earl Edward, was born Jan. 2, 1935 in St. Louis, MO and died Aug. 31, 1996 in Miami, OK. Survivors: son, Earl Jr., Chicago, IL., daughters, Suzie Rogers, Neosho, MO and Sharon Farman, St. Claire, MO.: mother, Mae Whitesell; father, Ralph Whitesell; and 1 grandchild.

GODBEHERE, Kenneth Clifford. was born July 18, 1930 in Hot Springs, AR and died June 25, 1996 in Hot Springs. Survivors: wife, Louise, Hot Springs; brother, Dan, Blackwell, OK.; sisters, Odell

Earl of New Mexico and Lydia Christman, Phoenix, AZ.

JETER, JR., Benjamin F., was born Sept. 11, 1919 in Winn Parish, LA and died June 13, 1996 in Shreveport, LA. He is survived by 4 brothers, Grover, of Dodson, LA; Madison, of Shreveport; Edgar and Felton, both of Olla, LA.

JONSSON, Tom, was born Mar. 28, 1926 in Arnarstadir, Iceland and died July 9, 1996 in Keene, TX. Survivors: daughter, Becky Zartman, Fort Worth, TX; son, David, Keene; brother, Jon Hjorleifur, Revkjavik, Iceland: sisters, Ingibiorg Rebekka, Rebekka Sigridur, and Malfridur Bergljot, all of Reykjavik; and 6 grandchildren.

LIPSCOMB, John Webb, was born Mar. 13, 1917 in Ponchatoula, LA and died July 25, 1996 in Baton Rouge, LA. Survivors: wife, Myra, Baton Rouge; son, Frank Paul, Monroe, LA; and daughter, Betty Anne Snyder, Clinton, LA.

MARTIN, Jennie Elizabeth, was born June 9, 1911 in Yakima, WA and died Feb. 29, 1996 in Brownwood, TX. She is survived by a son, William Terrel of Kingsville, Robert Stumpf

MOREAU, Essie, was born Oct. 14, 1905 in Ardmore, OK and died June 16, 1996 in Springdale, AR. She is survived by a sister, Jewell Owens of Siloam Springs, AR and several nieces and nephews.

MOULTON, Elizabeth Elaine, was born Aug. 1, 1915 in Springtown, AR and died May 27, 1996 in Hot Springs, AR, Survivors; sons, David, Indianapolis, IN and Harold, Pearcy, AR; daughter; Kathy Ledford, Indianapolis; and several brothers and sisters.

POSEY, Louise Jones, was born in Baton Rouge, LA and died Aug. 8. 1996 in Baton Rouge. Survivors: daughters, Sandra Denise and Charlene Posey, both of Baton Rouge; and mother, Eliza King, also of Baton Rouge. **Evelyn Edwards**

PRICE, Katie Curry, was born July 18, 1899 in Wilson, LA and died July 22, 1996 in Baton Rouge, LA. Survivors: cousins, Naomi Barton. Huntsville, AL; Rose Robinson, Audrey Philson, Margaret Chatman, Connie Claiborne, Danny Robinson and Charles Robinson, Jr., all of Baton Rouge. Evelyn Edwards

WEBER, Bernice Pittman, was born June 4, 1913 in Buchville, AR and died July 11, 1996 in Hot Springs, AR. She is a former denominational teacher and missionary to Africa and was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Harry Weber. She is survived by 3 brothers, Arnold Pittman of Texas; Daniel Pittman, Mena, AR; and Dennis Pittman, Hot Springs.

WHITE, Herbert, was born Sept. 14, 1933 in Coylo, OK and died May 10, 1996 in Baton Rouge, LA. Survivors: wife, Melva, Denham Springs, LA: daughters, Carol Ann Stacey, Linda Christopher and Tina Mills; sons, Michael and Kenneth; stepson, Barry Sanders; and stepdaughters, Patty Diedrich and Janet Brignac.



OBITUARIES

WOLAVER, Thelma Lula, was born July 26, 1905 in Marion Co., TX and died Sept. 12, 1996 in Jefferson, TX. Survivors: son, George, Harleton, TX; daughter, Jeanette Ferguson, Wharton, TX; brother, Bruce Cooner, Jefferson; 7 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren.

YOUNCE, Raymond Edward, was born June 28, 1928 and died Aug. 31, 1996. Survivors: wife, Betty, Fairland, OK; sons, Eric, Biloxi, MS and Dennis, Tulsa, OK; daughters, Lori, Jamestown, NY, Peggy, Keene, TX, and Susan Rogers, Fort Smith, AR; and 4 grandchildren.

Janet Corrigan



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COPY DEADLINES

Announcements and articles for the Record should be sent to conference office by the 15th of the month and to the Union by the 21st of the month.

8 Nov 15 Nov 22 Nov 20 Dec 6 Dec 13

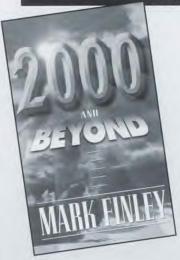
Sunset Calendar

	MOA. 9	NOV. 13	NUV. ZZ	NOV. 29	Dec. p	Dec. 13
Abilene, TX	5:43	5:39	5:35	5:34	5:33	5:35
Amarillo, TX	5:47	5:42	5:38	5:35	5:35	5:36
Brownsville, TX	5:44	5:41	5:39	5:38	5:38	5:40
Dallas, TX	5:30	5:26	5:22	5:21	5:20	5:22
El Paso, TX	5:11	5:07	5:03	5:02	5:02	5:03
Fort Worth/						
Keene, TX	5:32	5:28	5:24	5:23	5:22	5:24
Galveston/						
Houston, TX	5:28	5:25	5:22	5:21	5:21	5:22
Gentry, AR	5:16	5:11	5:07	5:04	5:04	5:05
Little Rock, AR	5:10	5:05	5:01	4:59	4:58	4:59
Muskogee, OK	5:20	5:15	5:11	5:08	5:08	5:09
New Orleans, LA	5:08	5:04	5:01	5:00	5:00	5:01
Oklahoma City, O	K 5:29	5:24	5:20	5:17	5:17	5:18
San Antonio, TX	5:44	5:39	5:36	5:35	5:35	5:37
Santa Fe, NM	5:02	4:56	4:53	4:50	4:49	4:50
Shreveport, LA	5:19	5:15	5:11	5:10	5:09	5:10
Tulsa, OK	5:22	5:17	5:13	5:10	5:10	5:11

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